

Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 USSS-00 INCT-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
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SAA-01 /068 W DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2735

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

REVIEWED by

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E.O. 12065: GDS 3-11-85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M

TAGS: ASEC, PEPR, PINS, AF, US

SUBJECT: AFGHANS PROVIDE ONLY MINIMAL COOPERATION FOR
EMBASSY'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTION AND
DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS

REF: (A) KABUL 16061 (8) KABUL 1569

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) HAS THUS FAR PROVIDED ONLY MINIMAL ASSISTANCE TO OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTION AND DEATH OF AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS. END OF SUMMARY.

3. WE WISH TO PRESENT A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ASSISTANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE FROM THE DRA IN OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTION AND DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS. TO FURTHER OUR INQUIRY, WE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOUR DIPLOMATIC NOTES. (COPIES OF OUR NOTES AND THE DRA REPLIES WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT VIA AIRGRAM.)

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4. THE FIRST OF OUR NOTES (NO. 33 OF FEBRUARY 19) REQUESTED,

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INTER ALIA, A COPY OF THE FORMAL AFGHAN POLICE REPORT ON THE INCIDENT, FIRM IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS, AN EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DECISION TO STORM THE HOTEL ROOM, A COMPLETE BALLISTICS REPORT ON THE WEAPONS FOUND IN THE ROOM, AND AUTOPSY REPORTS THAT FORENSIC INFORMATION ON THE SLAIN TERRORISTS. A SECOND NOTE (NO. 42 OF FEBRUARY 26) REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE WEAPONS POSSESSED BY THE AMBASSADOR'S ABDUCTORS. (NOTE: THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND POLICE COMMANDANT SAYED DAQUD TAROON HAD EARLIER INVITED US TO SEE AND TAKE PICTURES OF THESE WEAPONS, BUT FAILED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS INVITATION WHEN WE PRESSED FOR SPECIFIC APPOINTMENT TIMES.)

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR FIRST NOTE, THE DRA FURNISHED A REPORT (REFTEL 8). THIS REPORT, AS NOTED IN REFTEL A, HAS SERIOUS INTERNAL INCONSISTENCIES AND APPEARS AT VARIANCE BOTH WITH THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM AND WITH OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY DRA OFFICIALS ON THE INCIDENT. BEYOND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WEAPONS, IT PROVIDED NO BALLISTICS INFORMATION, NO AUTOPSY REPORTS OR FORENSIC INFORMATION, AND NO IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS, ALL OF WHICH WE HAD REQUESTED IN OUR NOTE OF FEBRUARY 18.

6. THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE DRA'S ACCOUNT PROMPTED US TO SUBMIT ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC NOTE (NO. 53 OF FEBRUARY 28), REITERATING OUR REPORTS FOR AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS, THE COMPLETE BALLISTICS REPORTS ON THEIR WEAPONS, AND AUTOPSY REPORTS WITH FORENSIC INFORMATION. WE ALSO ASKED TO LEARN THE NAME AND POSITION OF THE OFFICIAL WHO PREPARED THE OFFICIAL DRA REPORT.

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7. THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED TO THIS NOTE, AND TO OUR NOTE REQUESTING TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE WEAPONS, WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE NO. 1025 OF MARCH 6. THIS NOTE DECLARED THAT "THE INFORMATION ON THE TYPES AND SHAPES OF THE WEAPONS LEFT FROM THE TERRORISTS TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER INFORMATION THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES COULD OBTAIN" WERE SENT TO THE EMBASSY IN THE POLICE REPORT "FORWARDED" BY POLICE COMMANDANT TAROON. (NOTE: THE MFA'S NOTE DOES NOT SAY THAT TAROON AUTHORED THE REPORT, ONLY THAT HE FORWARDED IT.)


8. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER EMBASSY NOTE (NO. 52 DATED FEBRUARY
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28) OUR INVESTIGATORS WERE PERMITTED ON MARCH 8 TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF THE KABUL HOTEL, INCLUDING THE ROOM WHERE THE AMBASSADOR WAS HELD. WE MIGHT NOTE IN PASSING THAT, PRIOR TO ADMITTING OUR PHOTOGRAPHER TO THE HOTEL ROOM, POLICE PHOTOGRAPHERS THEMSELVES TOOK PICTURES OF THE ROOM, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE DRA ITSELF MIGHT NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT THIS BASIC INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE.

 THEY INDICATE THAT THE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE HE PROVIDED WAS MINIMAL. ON THE MOST RECENT OCCASION WHEN OUR INVESTIGATORS ATTEMPTED TO SEE TAROON, HE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT HE COULD NOT FIT THEM INTO HIS SCHEDULE.

10. COMMENT: WE DO NOT YET WISH TO SPECULATE WHY THE DRA HAS PROVIDED ONLY MARGINAL ASSISTANCE TO OUR INVESTIGATION, AND WHY MUCH OF THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN ITS REPORT WAS INACCURATE, INCOMPLETE OR MISLEADING. WE ALSO BELIEVE WITH REGRET FURTHER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE DRA WILL PRODUCE NO POSITIVE RESULTS.

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